

SECRET

PP STAFF COORDINATION

PROJECT:

AEFLAG

~~MEMORANDUM~~ New Project

DIVISION

SR

RENEWAL

BRANCH

2

TERMINATION

DESK

STAFF CONCURRENCE

MEMORANDUM ATTACHED

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT

SIGNATURE

COPY NO.

DATE

YES

NO

DATE

Analysis Branch 1

[Signature]

2

5 Apr 57

PP/ICD

[Signature]

3

28 Mar 57

PP/OPS/PR

[Signature]

1

1957
29 March

PP/C/OPS

[Signature]

1

11 Apr 57

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

CPP

SIG

[Signature]

DATE

12 April 57

A/DD/P/P

SIGNATURE

DATE

(This space reserved for comments of SSA-DD/S; CPP; A/DD/P/P.)

1957 funds programmed in operating budget
1958 funds subject to appropriations

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PROJECT OUTLINE

Project Cryptonym: AEFLAG


Originating Division: SR

a. Division Chief: 

Ext. 2421

b. Branch Chief : 

Ext. 4122




c. Case Officer : 

Ext. 3582

Target Area: Latvian SSR

Type of Project: PP Project

Financial Mechanism: Direct and through Cut-Out Cover Organization

Funds Requested: 1 January 1957 through 30 June 1957 - 
For Fiscal Year 1958 (Subject to
availability of FY 1958 Funds)  

Current Status: New and FY 1958 Renewal

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1. OBJECTIVES.

- a. To preserve the national identity of the Latvian people in the Latvian SSR.
- b. To promote an attitude of irreconcilability among the Latvian people toward Communism.
- c. To foster the pro-Western orientation of the Latvian people in the Latvian SSR.

2. ORIGIN AND POLICY GUIDANCE.

a. Origin: This project originated as a firm proposal included in the SR Division Operational Program for FY 1956 (Revised) - FY 1957 (Initial), TS #107830, approved by the DCI on 7 August 1956. The proposed objectives are in accordance with CIA responsibilities as directed by NSC 5505/1.

b. Whence proposed: Headquarters.

3. SITUATION.

Background:

Latvia is a country of about 25,700 square miles with an estimated population of 2, 100,000. It has a coast line of about 310 miles fronting on the Baltic and is otherwise surrounded by Soviet-controlled territory. The Latvian people belong to the ethnic group of Balts and are not a member of either the Germanic or Slavic races. They have their own language, which belongs to the Baltic branch of Indo-European languages. The Latvian tribes settled down along the shores of the Baltic Sea in pre-historic times. For many centuries they were governed by various foreign nations, i.e. Germans, Swedes, Poles, and Russians. Throughout all these centuries, the Latvian people preserved their national identity and their language. In 1918, Latvia became an independent republic, which it remained until 1940, when it was occupied by the Soviet Union. In July 1941, the Soviets were driven out by the German army, but after the defeat of the latter in 1944, Latvia was once more occupied by the Soviets and has since been incorporated into the Soviet Union, an action not recognized by the United States Government.

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Mass deportations of Latvians took place in 1941 and also in 1948 and 1949. A small percentage of Latvians were able to escape to the West during the war years and only very few after the war. According to the testimonies of escapees and news received from behind the Iron Curtain, there is strong and bitter resentment among the remaining Latvians against the Soviet political and economic oppression. Their principal aim is to survive in the hope that liberation might some day come.

4. PROPOSALS.

In order to accomplish the objectives in Section I above, it is proposed to:

Beam Latvian-language radio broadcasts to Latvia over Radio Nacional, Madrid. The content of these broadcasts will be composed of factual news reporting and editorial comment and will be consistent with the above objectives and U.S. policy.

5. OPERATIONAL OUTLINE.

a. Tasks.

(1) Provide policy guidance, directions, and support materials to [] who will prepare suitable scripts and texts for use over Radio Madrid.

(2) Provide policy guidance, directions, and support materials to [] and [] through [] [] and [] will write scripts and feature articles and serve alternately as announcers.

(3) Provide for the purchase of suitable special feature articles from appropriate Latvians of special interest or qualifications.

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b. Key Personnel.

(1) Principal Agent [redacted], [redacted]. He is currently employed as a covert associate under FI Project AEMARSH, but the greater part of his time during the past year has been devoted to PP activities, i.e., collecting materials and providing scripts and guidance for the Latvian radio broadcasts from Radio Nacional, maintaining correspondence with the two persons in Madrid on matters pertaining to the broadcasts, transmitting checks in payment of feature articles to Latvian writers in the United States and other countries, as well as monthly remuneration checks to the sub-agents in Madrid, and maintaining the accounts of the [redacted]

[redacted] in whose name such payments are being made. [redacted] is to be employed in the future under Project AEFLAG and is to receive a salary of \$6,000 per annum. Due to his extensive contacts and good standing among Latvian emigres he is well qualified to carry out these tasks.

(2) Contract agent [redacted] (OA C-33899 dated 12 July 1956), who is to be employed as an announcer and script writer for the Latvian broadcasts in Madrid. He is well qualified for this position, having had previous experience as a script writer and announcer at the Riga Radio Station. He is to receive a salary of \$6,000 per annum.

(3) [redacted] (OA pending - requested March 1957), a Latvian woman residing in Madrid who has been in charge of all the technical details connected with the Latvian radio broadcasts since their initiation in February 1955. She is well acquainted with the local situation in Madrid and is able to maintain and facilitate liaison with the Spanish authorities, aided by the fact that she is married to a Spanish minor government official. She will continue to assist with the radio broadcasts and will receive a monthly salary of \$100.

(4) [redacted] (Renewal of POA requested March 1957 while awaiting OA), the official Latvian diplomatic representative in Madrid, who initiated these broadcasts in February 1955, is to continue in the capacity of consultant and script writer, as well as for the purpose of maintaining liaison with official Spanish authorities. He will receive a monthly remuneration of \$50 for purposes of representation and for preparing radio scripts.

c. Target Groups.

All residents of the Latvian SSR.

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d. Duration.

The project is viewed as a continuing activity so long as the objectives of U.S. foreign policy remain what they are. No particular phasing is involved.

6. SECURITY.

a. Cover.

The mechanism that will be utilized to provide cover for the transmission of the required financial support and guidance will be the ILC organization. This is a cultural organization established under FI Project AEMARSH in order to provide cover for covert activities as required. The funds required for maintaining ILC as an organization will be borne by Project AEMARSH.

b. Knowledgeability.

[] is aware of being employed by CIA. [] is unwitting of CIA connection with the radio broadcasts, but is aware that the U.S. Government (supposedly the Department of Defense) is sponsoring the Latvian Section at Radio Nacional. [] and [] are not aware of U.S. interest, but are under the impression that the broadcasts are sponsored by the [] organization. As far as can be determined, the Spanish government is not aware of any U.S. government interest.

c. Operational Security.

There will be no direct or indirect contact between AEFLAG personnel and personnel of the [] [] will maintain communications and provide directions utilizing overt mail channels in the name of the []

d. Risks.

No major risks are anticipated under present circumstances. Contact with covert associates will be conducted in a secure manner.

e. Personnel Disposal.

No personnel disposal problems are anticipated. [] and [] both understand that they will receive financial support from only as long as they comply with its directives and only so far as the programs are considered worth continuing. [] is a career agent and is qualified for assignment to other duties, either FI or PP. services are contracted for on a year-to-year basis.

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f. Disaster Plan.

In case of need, agents stationed abroad could be evacuated in accordance with the existing Agency emergency evacuation plan.

7. COORDINATION.

a. Relation to Other Projects.

The project is related to Project AEMARSH, since the ILC is established under Project AEMARSH (FI-Redskin) and will be used as a means of funding PP activities. The principal agent, [redacted], may continue to be used occasionally for FI-Redskin tasks. In terms of objectives, Project AEFLAG closely parallels [redacted] for Estonia and Project AEPOLE for Lithuania.

b. Significance within overall area program.

The project is in accordance with the Country Program for the USSR in the PP field, in line with the NSC Policy Directive 54-12.

c. Extent of Coordination.

(1) Dispatch and establishment of PP agents in Spain will be coordinated with the appropriate area division and with the Chief of the Station in the field.

(2) Contacts with foreign government agencies and representatives in Spain have already been established by [redacted] acting as official representative of Latvian emigres in Spain.

8. CONTROL.

a. Nature of.

Operational control over the Latvian radio broadcasts will be assured by the fact that [redacted] and [redacted] will be under contract with CIA and will receive their salaries from us. [redacted] is in close contact with a Headquarters case officer. All financial transactions and expenditures in connection with the broadcasts will be under Agency control. The content of radio programs and the policy line will be examined and evaluated periodically by Headquarters. In addition, staff agent, [redacted] (p) (under [redacted]), who is editor-in-chief of the Eastern European Section of Radio Nacional, will provide on-the-spot guidance and direction for the Latvian radio broadcasts.

b. Administrative Plan.

None required. Normal accounting requirements will be followed, as prescribed in attached fiscal annex.

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c. Reports.

Reports on the status of the budget will be submitted to Headquarters by AEZERO/1 at regular intervals. [] will submit bi-monthly verbatim texts of programs to []. No unusual reports procedure is involved.

9. BUDGET DATA.

a. Total funds required.

Total CIA funds required for the support of this project are as follows:

For the balance of FY 1957
For FY 1958 (Subject to availability
of FY 1958 funds)

[]
[]

b. Availability of CIA Funds required.

The funds for the implementation of this project ^{will be} ~~were~~ included in the SR Division Operational Program for FY 1957 in the amount of []

per C/O.

c. Non-CIA funds.

Not applicable.

d. Foreign currency.

Not applicable.

e. Funding.

(1) Compensation to covert associate [] in the Washington area will be paid direct, through Headquarters contact.

(2) Compensation to [] will be remitted in the name of the [] [] will be reimbursed for transportation costs to Spain and for operational expenses.

f. Financial History

During the fiscal year 1956, and the first part of FY 1957, the project was in a developmental stage. During the fiscal year 1956, total expenditures from PP developmental funds amounted to []; FY 1957 []

g. Future Requirements

This project ^{will be} ~~is~~ included in the SR Division FY 1958 Operational Program in the amount of \$19,000 and renewal in this amount is requested concurrently with approval of this project, subject to availability of FY 1958 funds. The breakdown for FY 1957 and 1958 is as follows:

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Salaries:	Per Year
C J	\$6,000.00
C J	6,000.00
C J	1,200.00
C J	600.00

Operational Expenses:

Travel.	C J
Purchase of services (special feature scripts).	C J
Purchase of information (wire service, overt publications). . .	C J
Entertainment	C J
Office expenses	C J

10. SUPPORT DATA.

a. Total CIA Personnel.

(1) Headquarters personnel available are sufficient to handle the part of the project dealing with Latvian broadcasts and most likely the initial stages of the other tasks mentioned under 4 (b) and (c). *and tasks as described in paragraph 5*

(2) One covert associate is available immediately for implementation of this project, and one contract agent (C J) has been recruited and has full operational clearance. He will be placed under contract as soon as the project has been approved.

No extensive additional training will be required, except for a thorough briefing of (C J) before his dispatch to Madrid.

b. Communications.

(C J) Communications will be maintained through direct contact with at Headquarters and through instrumentality of ILC via regular international mail channels with personnel in Madrid.

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c. Other CIA Support.

PP Staff studies and guidances will be required.

d. Support required from other U.S. Agencies.

None, other than requests for Re-Entry Permits from the Immigration and Naturalization Service for any alien personnel that may be dispatched overseas in connection with this project.

11. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

a. Current Status.

The Latvian-language broadcasts from Radio Nacional were initiated early in 1955 by () and (), in Madrid. Negotiations between () and () were entered into during 1955, and an agreement was reached whereby () would provide financial assistance, as well as personnel and equipment, for the broadcasts, and () would relinquish control of the broadcasts but continue to act as a consultant and as liaison with the Spanish authorities. A covert associate of SR/2 was dispatched to Madrid on TDY from November 1955 to March 1956 to assist in developing and improving these broadcasts. After his return to Headquarters, attempts were made to recruit a suitable person to be assigned to Madrid on a permanent basis as an announcer and script writer. () was recruited during the summer of 1956 and is ready to be dispatched to Madrid immediately upon approval of this project. Operational expenses covering PP activities during 1955 and 1956 were charged partly to the PP developmental fund and partly to Project AEMARSH. During the past year, Latvian broadcasts have been made daily on a 15-minute basis. Scripts and tape recordings have been prepared by our covert associates in Washington.

b. Commitments.

(1) () has been under contract with the Agency since August 1951, and has been promised an increase in salary to \$6,000 per annum.

(2) () will be placed under contract at an annual salary of \$6,000 plus transportation to Madrid, as soon as this project is approved. ✓

(3) () and () have been promised and are receiving a monthly compensation of \$50 each for their services: in the case of () this amount is to be increased to \$100 a month.

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c. Effectiveness.

Occasional letters received from listeners in Latvia in response to these broadcasts indicate that the programs can be heard in the target area.

d. Anticipated results.

It is anticipated that the present project would help materially in the attainment of the basic PP objectives involved, as outlined in Paragraph 1 of this project

e. Evaluation.

The performance of the project, including the content of its radio and propaganda output, will be evaluated by Headquarters on a continuing basis to insure that Agency support is utilized in an effective manner.

f. Policy Questions.

The activity proposed in this project is consistent with U.S. policy.

g. Congress.

Not applicable.

h. Extra-Agency Action.

Not applicable.

i. Proprietary Companies.

The ILC mentioned earlier in this project is a subsidized company of the Agency. It was established under Project AEMARSH and will be used as a funding mechanism both for FI and PP operations.

j. Special Considerations.

Inasmuch as the radio programs - in order to lend them tone of authenticity as expression of genuine free Latvians in exile - may occasionally indulge in mild criticism of U.S. actions, an adverse reaction can be expected in the U.S. press in the event our sponsorship of these programs ever becomes public.

k. Liquidation.

No special problems are anticipated.

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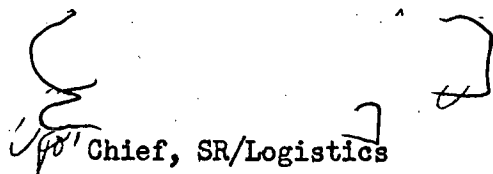
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28 January 1957

MATERIEL AND FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS ANNEX

PROJECT AEFLAG - PP

Logistics support is not required for Project AEFLAG - PP as submitted for approval for FY 1957.

 Chief, SR/Logistics

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